



News Release

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Four Exemplary Businesses Inducted Into the SBA's Hall of Fame

WASHINGTON – Four formerly small businesses that received early-stage SBA assistance and have graduated to the “big leagues,” are now slated to be honored as inductees into the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Hall of Fame on April 27, 2005. The ceremony will take place at SBA Expo ’05, a co-sponsored conference held April 26-28 celebrating National Small Business Week, in none other than baseball-frenzied Washington, D.C.

The 2005 Hall of Fame inductees are: Amgen, Inc., Thousand Oaks, Calif.; Under Armour Performance Apparel, Baltimore, Md.; Wild Oats Markets, Inc., Boulder, Col.; and Doley Securities, Inc., New Orleans, La.

“These well established businesses started out small and received help at varying points along the way from the U.S. Small Business Administration,” SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto said. “Their success was the result of hard work, good business practices, and an unwavering commitment to succeed and grow. The SBA is proud to have played a small part in the pursuit of their dreams and those of many more small businesses like them across this country.”

Barreto will present the CEOs and top officers of these firms with their Hall of Fame awards during a special reception, co-sponsored by IBM, Wednesday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Andrew Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. during the SBA’s Expo ’05.

The plaques commemorating these inductees will be displayed in the SBA’s headquarters along with previous winners. Accepting the Hall of Fame awards for their respective companies are: Rodger Currie, vice president of government relations, Amgen, Inc.; J. Scott Plank, chief administrative officer, Under Armour Performance Apparel; Ted Andrews, director of operations, Wild Oats Markets, Inc.; and Harold E. Doley, Jr., founder, president and CEO, Doley Securities, Inc. Nominations for inductees were received from district and regional SBA offices around the country.

In addition to having received SBA assistance at some point, each nominated business was required to meet the following criteria: exemplary leadership in the business community; outstanding innovation; sustained growth, creating jobs and opportunities for others in their community; great diligence to overcome significant hardships to achieve success; and outstanding dedication to their community.

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Background on 2005 SBA Hall of Fame inductees:

- **Amgen, Inc.** of Thousand Oaks, Calif., is a leading human therapeutics company in the biotechnology industry. For 25 years, the company has tapped the power of scientific discovery and innovation to dramatically improve people's lives. Amgen received investment funding through the Small Business Investment Company program in 1983 and 1986, and employs more than 14,000 people. In 2004 it had revenues of \$10.6 billion.
- **Under Armour Performance Apparel**, based in Baltimore, Md., is the originator of performance apparel, a line of moisture wicking microfiber clothing that pulls perspiration away from the skin to keep athletes cool, dry and light throughout the course of a game, practice or workout. Under Armour, which employs more than 450 people, received four U.S. Small Business Administration guaranteed loans from 1999 – 2001, all of which have been paid in full.
- **Wild Oats Markets, Inc.**, of Boulder, Col., started with the purchase of a single natural foods store. The concept grew store by store into the nation's second largest natural and organic foods supermarket chain, with a family of 110 stores in 24 states and British Columbia. Wild Oats received investment funding through the Small Business Investment Company program in 1994 and 1996.
- **Doley Securities, Inc.**, based in New Orleans, La., is the oldest African American-owned investment-banking firm in the nation. The company specializes in providing investment products and service to institutional clients. It recently marked its 31st year as a member of the New York Stock Exchange. Doley Securities was launched by receiving investment funding through the SBA's former Minority Enterprise Small Business Investment Company program, and later received assistance through several SBA guaranteed loans.

Interested small business owners, business organizations, and other individuals may find additional information, including online registration for *SBA Expo '05* events, at <http://www.sba.gov/expo>. A list of winners for of the awards presented at *SBA Expo '05* can also be found at the Web site.

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